(b) Out of the three power blocks aggregating a capacity of about 2150 MW, one power block of about 740 MW is scheduled to be commissioned by July, 2006 and other two blocks by November, 2006. However, commissioning of the first of the three blocks are being targeted on best effort basis to take place in May, 2006.

(c) The prices of LNG are presently under negotiation with various prospective suppliers of LNG. The price of gas will have an impact on the electricity tariff which will finally be approved by the appropriate Regulatory Commission.

(d) No, Sir. The Justice Kurdukar Commission of Enquiry was set up by Government of Maharashtra *vide* their Notification dated 7th November, 2001 to enquire into issues related to the erstwhile Dabhol power project of M/s Dabhol Power Company.

The Supreme Court, *vide* its order passed on 9.4.2003 stayed the proceedings of the Justice Kurdukar Commission of Enquiry in so far as they relate to the Central Government. Subsequently, the Government of Maharashtra, *vide* its notification dated 26th December, 2005 has discontinued the Commission from 1.1.2006.

Energy through non-conventional sources

†*91. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for the States to meet their 10 per cent demand of energy through non-conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the State-wise details of energy production being made by different sources of non- conventional energy;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the production of bio-gas with a view to make villages self-reliant after fulfilling their energy demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A National Programme on Bio-gas Development (NPBD), which caters to promotion of family type bio-gas plants, is under implementation in all States and Union Territories with the objective of meeting cooking fuel requirements. To date, subsidy has been provided for setting up around 3.8 million family type bio-gas plants in the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

A target of setting up of 66,000 family type bio-gas plants has been allocated to States and Union Territories for 2005-06.

Basic safety and comfort standards for buses

*92. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a law to ensure that buses meet the minimum safety and comfort standards before they are given permits to operate;

(b) if so, the other salient features of this proposal;

(c) by when this proposal would be put in operation; and

(d) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of small scale manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALU): (a) The Central Government has already formulated a Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval to ensure uniformity in bus body building for providing passenger safety and comfort. The standards for testing and approval for body building of buses has also been notified in the Gazette on 16.09.2005.

(b) The salient features of the Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval are:

- Categorization of buses based on the seating capacity and on minimum comfort levels and the type of operation.
- Various safety related features lake entry/exit door, emergency exits, window frames, their locations dimensions and designs.
- Standardization of the floor level height, gangways and dimensions of the foot steps.
- Dimension of seats, seating layout and illumination.
- Driver's workplace requirements.
- Methodology for the calculation of the standing and seating capacity for the passengers.
- Provisions for the persons with disabilities.